(a) whether penetration of LPG in rural areas is very low; and

(b) if so, the action taken to make LPG available in all the villages in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to increase rural penetration and to cover remote as well as low potential areas, a new scheme namely Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY) for establishing small size LPG distribution agencies for the locations having potential of 600 or more refill sales per month has been launched on 16.10.2009.

The advertisement inviting applications for agencies under the RGGLVY scheme have been released by public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in 8 States where the reach of LPG is low namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal covering 1215 locations.

For setting up of additional new LPG distributors under this scheme and under Industry Marketing Plan (IMP) 2008-10, OMCs are carrying out feasibility studies for various locations across the country. It is targeted that around 5.5 crore new LPG connections shall be released till the year 2015, most of which are expected to be in rural areas/presently uncovered areas.

Royalty on crude oil

1341. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) is required to pay royalty to the State Governments on crude oil and Gas based on the Wellhead price of crude oil as per the Government Notification dated 16th December, 2004, 20th August, 2007 and Resolution dated 17th March, 2007;

(b) whether Government is aware that during the period from April 2008 to December 2008; ONGC paid the royalty to the State Governments on Post Discount Prices;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the State Government of Gujarat has represented the Central Government for payment of royalty as per aforesaid Notification and Resolution; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The royalty on mineral oil in respect of commercial production from onland areas, is required to be paid to the State Governments at a rate fixed by the Central Government as percentage of the sale price of the mineral oil at the oil fields or the oil well head, as the case may be, under the provisions of Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act (ORDA), 1948, and Notifications issued from time to time.

(b) and (c) ONGC started making payment of Royalty at post-discount price from 1.4.2008 (due on 31.5.2008) in line with provisions of ORDA, 1948 and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas's decision on the subject.

(d) and (e) The State Government of Gujarat has represented to the Union Government for payment of royalty as per pre-discount prices. On examination of the issues raised by Government of Gujarat, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has clarified to the Government of Gujarat that royalty payments made by ONGC is on the basis of crude oil price actually realized *i.e.* post-discount price.

Job cards issued under NREGS

†1342. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that job cards were given to 1,06,35,840 villagers in Uttar Pradesh and 1,12,60,859 villagers in Madhya Pradesh in the year 2009-2010 but only 15,38,544 and 24,07,128 villagers respectively were provided with employment;

(b) if so, whether this is the reason for a large number of villagers migrating towards towns in search of employment;

(c) the reasons for providing employment to less number of people; and

(d) whether Government would obtain information from other States also about providing employment under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) A job card issued to a rural household under NREGA is valid for a period of 5 years. As per latest reports received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, cumulative number of job cards issued since inception of the Act is 1,06,83,969. Number of households provided employment in the State was 28,66,349 during the year 2006-07; 43,46,916 during 2007-08; 52,07,665 during 2008-09 and 28,61,505 during 2009-10 (up to October, 09). In Uttar Pradesh, 1,09,38,138 job cards have been issued. Number of households provided employment was 25,73,245 during 2006-07, 40,96,408 during 2007-08; 43,36,466 during 2008-09 and 32,27,258 during 2009-10 (up to October,09).

NREGA is demand based. Employment is provided to the job card holding rural households only when the apply for it. During the current year (2009-10 upto Oct.'09) in Madhya Pradesh, 2866252 households have demanded employment against which 2861505 households have been provided employment and in Uttar Pradesh, 3228631 households demanded employment out of which 3227258 households have been provided

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.